
HOUSE BILL 3187

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Pettigrew, Haler, Hunter, Kagi, Schual-Berke, Appleton, Loomis, Sullivan, Dickerson, Green, Lantz, Hudgins, Simpson, Darneille, McIntire, Roberts, Kenney, Wood, Santos, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/23/08. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to postadoption supports for children adopted from
2 foster care; adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children's
6 histories of abuse and neglect and aspects of their foster care
7 experiences significantly impact their needs even after they are
8 adopted and achieve permanent placements. The number of children being
9 adopted from the foster care system has increased over the last decade.
10 Policy changes also have resulted in more children who are eligible for
11 adoption but who have not yet been adopted. The legislature also finds
12 that adoption disruption occurs at a rate of approximately ten to
13 sixteen percent of adoptions. The risk of adoptions being terminated
14 is greatest for older children and within the first few years of the
15 adoption. Risk factors associated with adoption disruption and
16 termination include a variety of child-related factors and parent-
17 related factors. The legislature intends to promote postadoption and
18 postpermanency services to children and families in order to support

1 families, to reduce adoption disruptions and terminations, and to
2 increase the number of potential adoptive families.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose,
6 the department shall contract for an information and referral services
7 provider to support families with children adopted out of foster care.
8 The contract shall include components for statewide support of families
9 who may be seeking adoption-specific resources and information,
10 including referrals for individual or family counseling, support
11 groups, community services, and relevant training programs. The
12 information and referrals must be provided by an entity knowledgeable
13 and experienced in adoption issues. The contract shall specify that
14 the service provider must serve as the central point of contact for
15 Washington families seeking adoption-related information and referral
16 services.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose,
20 the department shall contract for education advocacy services for
21 children adopted out of foster care. Advocacy services may be designed
22 to provide support and guidance for parents to navigate the education
23 system, and may include training, information, referral, consultation,
24 and direct advocacy designed to promote the educational success of the
25 child.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 The department shall provide outreach to parents of children
29 adopted out of foster care and encourage adoptive parents to seek an
30 annual assessment of the functioning of the adoptive child with the
31 family to determine if there are services needed to help maintain or
32 strengthen the adoptive placement. The annual assessment encouraged
33 under this section is intended to help families to build strong

1 relationships, to recognize and enhance their strengths, and to
2 understand and address adoption-related dynamics.

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